



Longridge Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending December 31st, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Longridge.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of Longridge for the year ending December 31st, 1939. In accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in July, 1940 (Circular 2067) it is in an abbreviated form compared with former years.

The area of the Urban District is the same as in the previous report.

The social conditions, disturbed in the latter months of the year by the outbreak of war, have on the whole remained satisfactory.

There has been no variation in the facilities for employment in the district during the year. No marked fluctuation in the number of employed people was noted as the result of the war.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	3,285.
Population (Census, 1931)	4,158.
Estimated Population, Mid-1939	(a) 3,946.
	(b) 4,071.
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)	1,067.
Number at end of 1939 (Rate Books).....	1,080.
Rateable Value	£23,466.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£94.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total		
Live Births—Legitimate ...	27	27	54	Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated population	13.7
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0		
Total	27	27	54		
Stillbirths (Legitimate) ...	2	3	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	84.7
Deaths	24	30	54	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.4
Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor 1.04) equals 13.8 per 1,000.					
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil.			Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	8
Infantile Mortality Rate—				Deaths from Measles	Nil
All Infants per 1000 live births	148			Deaths from Whooping Cough	1
Legitimate per 1,000 Legitimate live births	148			Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
Illegitimate per 1,000 Illegitimate	0				

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 62 cases were notified: 21 cases of Scarlet Fever, 42 cases of Diphtheria and 1 of Pneumonia. 3 of the Scarlet Fever cases and the case of Pneumonia were nursed at home; all the others were removed to Hospital. Two deaths occurred, the case of Pneumonia and one case of Diphtheria died in Hospital.

The large number of cases of Diphtheria, which occurred mainly in children of school or under school age, gave rise to some anxiety, and necessitated the closure of schools on more than one occasion. The infection was spread not only from case to case but also by carriers who were not themselves affected. Two of these carriers were intermittent in type and this made detection much more difficult. The epidemic began in July and continued almost to the end of the year. In October a scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria was initiated, and approximately 50% of the child population were immunised by Dr. Binnie by the end of the year. This immunisation and the isolation of the two carriers determined the epidemic by the middle of December.

The facilities for the isolation and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases and the arrangement for the removal of cases to hospital were the same as in previous years.

GENERAL DISEASES.

There is no hospital accommodation locally. Patients are admitted to Preston Royal Infirmary or to Sharoe Green Hospital, and are removed there by Ambulances supplied from the hospitals. A radium clinic for the treatment of malignant diseases is based on Preston Royal Infirmary.

The Pathological Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary is available for Bacteriological or other examinations.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES.

Cases of Tuberculosis are dealt with by the Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Service, and specimens of sputum are examined at Elswick Sanatorium.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Lancashire County Council School Clinic in Kestor Lane every Tuesday afternoon, and an Ante-natal Clinic is held in the same building alternate Wednesday afternoons.

Two sessions per week are held at the Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, and two for dental treatment.

An Ophthalmic Clinic meets twice per month.

Maternity cases are accommodated at Preston Royal Infirmary Maternity Home or at Sharoe Green Maternity Home. There is one small private Maternity Home in the district.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Maternity Nursing are provided by the Longridge and District Nursing Association.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The district is supplied with a satisfactory water supply by Preston Corporation, and they ensure its purity by frequent bacteriological tests.

Refuse disposal, scavenging and sewage disposal are carried out by the Authority.

In the rural parts of the district earth closets and privies are emptied regularly.

There were no conversions to the water carriage system during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1939.

Number of Premises visited	430.
Number of Defects or Nuisances	16.
Number abated	16.
Statutory Notices served	Nil.
Legal Proceedings	Nil.

All the defects found were of a minor character and were amended on request.

SCHOOLS.

There are four Schools in the district, and they have been regularly inspected. Their condition was satisfactory. It was necessary to close the Schools on several occasions in order to control the outbreak of Diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three cases only of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. All of these were extra respiratory in character. There was one death from respiratory Tuberculosis.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions are good on the whole, and the houses are largely owner occupied.

RECEPTION.

Some hundreds of evacuated children were received into the area in the autumn, and because their standard of cleanliness on arrival was below that of the area, it was necessary to adopt energetic measures to remedy this condition, with consequent benefit to the evacuated children themselves as well as to the children of the area. The presence of these evacuees did not cause any increased amount of Infectious Disease. The majority of them had been immunised against Diphtheria before arrival.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Number of new houses erected during the year by private enterprise	7
Number of new houses erected during the year with State assistance	0
Number of new houses erected during the year by local authority	0

Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year—

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 85
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 85
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without submitting formal Notices:—
Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action 10
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
Sections A., B., C., and D. Nil

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Longridge,
December, 1940.

G. G. WRAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

